

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T VIENNA 01713

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: U.S.-ARGENTINE NUCLEAR RELATIONS

REF: STATE 43251

1. SUMMARY. IN CALL ON AMBASSADOR SMITH ON MARGIN OF IAEA BOARD MEETING, ARGENTINE CNEA PRESIDENT CASTRO MADERO SAID ARGENTINE RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO TREATY WOULD BE VERY UNLIKELY UNLESS U.S. WOULD SUPPLY HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY REPEAT TECHNOLOGY. IN VIEW MADERO'S STATEMENT, AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S STATEMENTS TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON TLATELOLCO RATIFICATION AS "VERY CONDITIONAL ON POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE," IT APPEARS ARGENTINA IS PULLING BACK FROM THREE-STAGE AGREEMENT REACHED EARLIER.

2. MADERO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD U.S.-ARGENTINE NOVEMBER '77 ARRANGEMENT CALLED FOR U.S. TO SUPPLY HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY IF ARGENTINA ACCEPTED FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS. HE SAID HIS DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON WITH NYE ET AL FEB. 17

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(REFTEL) INDICATED MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT ARGENTINA HAD AGREED TO. SMITH REVIEWED THREE STAGES AGREED ON (PARA 5 REFTEL) AND SAID HE BELIEVED THESE WERE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY BOTH SIDES DURING THE BUENOS AIRES TALKS.

3. MADERO DENIGRATED TLATELOLCO TREATY, SAYING IT HAD NO REAL IMPORTANCE FOR ARGENTINA OR FOR NONPROLIFERATION.

SMITH POINTED OUT PRESIDENT CARTER PLACED VALUE ON TREATY AND THOUGHT HE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S EXPRESSION IN WASHINGTON OF ARGENTINA'S INTENT TO RATIFY WAS NO LONGER ARGENTINE POLICY. MADERO REPLIED THAT, BASED ON MADERO'S REVIEW OF THE ARGENTINE RECORD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TALKS, VIDELA'S STATEMENT WAS CONDITIONAL AND NOT A COMMITMENT.

4. SMITH SAID MADERO'S PRESENT CONTENTION AS TO HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY SEEMED IMPLAUSIBLE SINCE IT LEFT NOTHING FOR THE U.S. TO PROVIDE IN THE THIRD STAGE WHEN ARGENTINA WOULD DEFER REPROCESSING IF "REGIONAL EQUILIBRIUM" WERE ACHIEVED. MADERO EVADED THIS POINT, REPLYING THAT FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS SHOULD BE ALL THAT ARGENTINA NEED DO TO GET HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY. U.S. PROVISION OF HEAVY WATER IN EXCHANGE FOR FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WAS NOT A QUID PRO QUO BECAUSE ARGENTINA COULD EASILY BUY HEAVY WATER FROM CANADA (WHICH WOULD REQUIRE FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS) OR ELSEWHERE. MADERO SAID "THE WHOLE U.S. DEAL, (I.E., TLATELOLCO RATIFICATION AND FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS) WAS BASED ON ARGENTINE ACQUISITION OF HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY."

5. MADERO CONFIRMED HIS STATEMENT TO NYE THAT MARTINEZ FABINI NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR GOVERNMENT (ALTHOUGH MARTINEZ AND MADERO APPEAR TO BE TAKING SAME LINE.)

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6. IN REPLY TO MADERO'S QUESTION, NOSENZO INDICATED THAT IF ARGENTINA ADOPTED POSITION OUTLINED BY MADERO THIS MIGHT WELL AFFECT FURTHER U.S.-ARGENTINE NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

7. MADERO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF A LETTER FROM U.S. TO ARGENTINA CLARIFYING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CONDITIONS FOR HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY. SMITH WAS NONCOMMITAL. SMITH

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